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COMPREHENSIVE BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION AS WELL AS ON THE DECISIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

The present report is submitted in compliance with paragraph 13 of decision 11/1A that was adopted by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) at its eleventh session.

The report presents an analysis of various issues pertaining to the promotion and utilization of TCDC and the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for TCDC and relevant decisions of the High-level Committee. The contributions made by developing countries, developed countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme and the Special Unit for TCDC, are also reviewed. In addition, the report presents significant TCDC initiatives undertaken since the eleventh session of the High-level Committee.

The report also highlights the key contributions of TCDC to the global development process. It contains recommendations for a redoubling of efforts by the developing countries and their development partners, including the United Nations development system, and for increasing the financial support that developed countries provide to TCDC.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AABF	Africa-Asia Business Forum
AfDB	African Development Bank
AIDMO	Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
AOAD	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action
CNM	capacity and needs matching
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
EMPRETEC	Entrepreneurship Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GSTP	Global System of Trade Preferences
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IGO	intergovernmental organization
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ITC	International Trade Centre
JHRDF	Japan Human Resources Development Fund
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LDC	least developed country
LOGOTRI	Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific

NGO	non-governmental organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RBAP	Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
RBAS	Regional Bureau for Arab States
SELA	Latin American Economic System
SESRTCIC	Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SPFS	Special Programme for Food Security
SSCS	South-South Cooperation Scheme
TCCT	technical cooperation among countries in transition
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TCTP	third-country training programme
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
TRN	technical resources network
TSI	trade support institution
TWN	Third World Network
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UPU	Universal Postal Union

WARDA	West Africa Rice Development Association
WHO	World Health Organization
WIDE	Web of Information for Development
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WPRO	Regional Office for the Western Pacific
WTO	World Trade Organization

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present comprehensive report on the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA)[1] during the biennium 1999-2000 is submitted in accordance with paragraph 13 of decision 11/1 A adopted by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC)[2] at its eleventh session.

2. In preparing the report, the Special Unit for TCDC drew primarily on the information received in response to the questionnaires that were sent to all developing countries, donor countries, organizations of the United Nations system, including the Regional Commissions, relevant intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), country offices and relevant bureaux of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The questionnaires, tailored to the various categories of respondents, were designed to solicit information on the implementation of BAPA, with particular reference to policy and institutional arrangements, the new directions strategy, the volume of operations, examples of cooperation and recommendations for improving the use of TCDC. Information generated from the activities supported by the Special Unit and that obtained from the public domain, including relevant reports and publications of a variety of organizations and entities, was also used in preparing the report. The list of respondents is provided in the annex.

3. The report is organized in five sections. Following the introduction (section I), section II provides a brief overview of progress and recent trends in TCDC during the biennium 1999-2000. More detailed information on the progress reported by developing countries in practicing TCDC is presented in section III while section IV focuses on the progress of developed countries in support of TCDC. Section V highlights progress made by other development partners in promoting TCDC, including organizations of the United Nations system, UNDP and the Special Unit, IGOs and NGOs. Conclusions and recommendations for improved TCDC are contained in section VI.

4. It should be noted that progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for TCDC is reviewed and discussed in a separate document (TCDC/12/2). Thus the present document and TCDC/12/2 should be read together to appreciate the overall progress in TCDC during the biennium 1999-2000.

II. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS AND TRENDS IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DURING THE BIENNIUM 1999-2000

5. Developing countries increasingly realize that for them to be able to meet the challenges and benefit from the opportunities of globalization, they will need to adapt their domestic policy and institutional arrangements to the requirements of the new global systems. Only in this way will they be able to protect and promote their national human development interests, participate more effectively in multilateral processes, and compete in the increasingly competitive world market. To this end, they will need to build the requisite capacities, share experiences and complement one another's expertise.

6. It was the awareness of shared priorities and aspirations, the availability of a vast reservoir of expertise and capacities in the developing countries, and the urgent need for a revitalized agenda for South-South cooperation that led to the first South Summit of the Group of 77, which was held in Havana, Cuba in April 2000. The view that such cooperation should be intensified is increasingly shared by many partners in the development effort, including the donor community, the United Nations organizations and IGOs and NGOs. South-South cooperation can thus be considered to provide a new common ground for the international community to champion a more inclusive, participatory development agenda that will lead to the halving of the incidence of poverty by 2015 and the achievement of international development targets in the twenty-first century. It is in this context that the developing countries' progress in South-South cooperation and the extent to which other partners in the development effort have supported such cooperation during the biennium 1999-2000 are being reviewed.

7. In the previous biennium, six trends emerged in the area of TCDC: developing countries took a more active role in initiating and financing TCDC activities; TCDC activities moved from single-type and spontaneous interventions to more sophisticated and complex forms of exchanges; bilateral cooperation was complemented by increased intraregional and interregional collaboration; the private sector and the NGO community became more actively involved

in TCDC; conventional horizontal TCDC was enhanced by increased triangular cooperation; and developing countries made more deliberate efforts to support long-term collaboration rather than ad hoc initiatives.

8. A careful review of the overall progress reported by developing countries for the biennium 1999-2000 indicated that some of the trends from the previous biennium had not changed significantly whereas others had become more pronounced. For example, there was a significant increase in the number of countries whose cooperation agencies were allocating increased resources to TCDC. India, for example, allocated $170 million from its national budget for technical cooperation with other developing countries. During the same period, Turkey also budgeted $180 million for international technical and economic cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/ECDC), approximately 80 per cent of which was devoted to TCDC. In addition, while TCDC was undertaken by developing countries primarily through bilateral relations and agreements, inter-country and interregional cooperation increased during the review period, especially in the Latin America and Caribbean region and between countries in the regions of Africa and Asia and the Pacific. Developing countries no longer viewed and pursued TCDC simply as a means of achieving self-reliance or as a complement to traditional technical cooperation, which was characterized by provider-recipient relations. Rather, they recognized its potential in enabling them to integrate into the global economy

9. The analysis also revealed a number of new developments. For example, developing countries placed greater emphasis on the development of human resources than they had previously. They also followed a more effective TCDC planning and programming approach based on on-site needs assessments carried out via exploratory missions or joint commissions. In addition, they undertook more collaborative efforts to identify and address issues of common interest, especially those relating to globalization.

10. During the period under review, donor confidence in and support for TCDC, often described as triangular cooperation, registered impressive progress. All the developed countries responding to the questionnaire explicitly indicated their continued support for TCDC and considered it an important element of international development cooperation. Many believed that triangular cooperation had enhanced the ownership of development by programme countries and had resulted in the forging of better partnerships between them. Others reported the increased use of the TCDC modality in their bilateral and regional programmes. Some believed that the use of this modality should be integrated into the implementation of programmes by all United Nations organizations. Developed countries were also increasingly providing support to TCDC through well-established regional or subregional entities, centres of excellence or knowledge networks. The models of third-country training programmes (TCTPs) and third-country experts programmes were increasingly used for human resource development and the exchange of Southern expertise. A number of donor countries preferred to use a thematic or sectoral programme approach to support TCDC activities.

11. The responses from IGOs and NGOs indicated that they placed the most emphasis on regional cooperation programmes, networking, research, information-gathering and dissemination, and the analysis of trade and other issues relating to globalization.

12. The United Nations organizations remained important agents for promoting and catalysing technical and economic cooperation among developing countries within their respective areas of competence. All organizations have reportedly established TCDC focal points and most of them have decentralized programming to the field level, where it is easier to support TCDC. Some made a conscious effort to develop and support innovative and distinctive TCDC programmes to ensure sustainability and greater impact, e.g., the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) or the International Trade Centre (ITC) South-South Trade Promotion Programme. Most of the TCDC activities catalysed by the United Nations organizations, including regional commissions, were carried out at the subregional, regional and interregional levels. The networking of knowledge institutions and support to centres of excellence seemed to be the preferred means used by most organizations to build capacity, share best practices and expertise, conduct joint research and dialogue to address either sectoral or broad issues of concern to a large number of developing countries, such as trade, intellectual property rights, population, postal services and HIV/AIDS.

13. UNDP, as the United Nations coordinating organization in TCDC mobilization, remained the major provider of support to TCDC through its global, interregional, regional and country programmes. Most of its regional programmes were generally TCDC initiatives. The fact that over 50 per cent of the country cooperation frameworks referred to the TCDC modality and that 33 UNDP country offices responded to the TCDC questionnaire indicate that TCDC has been

increasingly used in UNDP programming. Furthermore, South-South cooperation was considered to be one of the priorities in the Administrator's Business Plans for 2000-2003. The Administrator has reiterated this emphasis on South-South cooperation at the South Summit and at the first regular session 2001 of the Executive Board. The Special Unit for TCDC, for its part, focused its efforts on capacity-building through support to South-South policy dialogue, the nurturing of knowledge networks and the building of broad-based partnerships using innovative approaches. The most noticeable progress has been made in facilitating South-South policy exchanges in the context of the South Summit preparations; transforming the Web of Information for Development (WIDE) into a robust South-South information and communication platform; developing an effective private-public sector cooperation model - the Africa-Asia Business Forum; compiling and disseminating successful practices in the South; and introducing the flagship approach to participatory TCDC programming.

14. Notwithstanding the progress and new developments highlighted above, a number of constraints to the expansion of TCDC were identified: lack of a coherent national TCDC policy and institutional support structure in some developing countries, especially least developed countries (LDCs), land-locked countries and countries with economies in transition; lack of documentation on national TCDC activities, including financial information; absence of a reporting system that captures TCDC activities; lack of innovative approaches and TCDC products that lend themselves to attracting donor funding under triangular arrangements; and weakness in knowledge-networking.

III PROGRESS MADE BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

15. Although a limited number of developing countries responded to the questionnaires, it was possible to determine, from the responses of all 103 respondents and other available data, that almost all developing countries were involved in TCDC activities as either provider or recipient or both. As noted in section II, the broad trends in TCDC that had emerged during the biennium 1997-1998 were also apparent in the biennium under review, with some of them becoming more pronounced. These trends include: improved policy and institutional environment for TCDC; increased national allocations for TCDC; increased focus on the development of human resources; greater emphasis on a more needs-based approach to TCDC planning and joint programming; increased use of two-way exchanges and convergence of efforts for mutual benefit; forging of partnerships around common development issues; and increased regional and interregional cooperation. A more detailed discussion of these developments follows.

16. *Improved policy and institutional environment for TCDC.* Many developing countries, including Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Singapore, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey, have established agencies that are responsible for coordinating TCDC and providing policy guidelines on the subject. By the end of the biennium 1999-2000, all developing countries reporting had established TCDC focal points and most pivotal countries had further strengthened them. For example, the Government of Costa Rica created the Department of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000,with an advisory council for determining technical cooperation strategies and guidelines. Mexico streamlined its institutional arrangements by setting up the Mexican Institute for International Cooperation to respond to new demands for TCDC/ECDC. In Peru, an Executive Secretariat for International Technical Cooperation was set up in the office of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers; it has overall responsibility for international technical cooperation. Pakistan, which also has an established TCDC focal point, prepared a TCDC policy that is presently under consideration by the Government. The countries with economies in transition, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia or Romania, are also looking towards closer cooperation among themselves and with other countries. These developments can be attributed not only to an improved appreciation of the TCDC concept and its validity but also to the increased importance attached to it by developing countries as a means of strengthening their role in international development cooperation.

17. *Increased national funding for TCDC.* Almost all the developing countries that provided information reported greater use of the TCDC modality in their technical and economic cooperation programmes with other developing countries. While numerous countries furnished examples of their TCDC programmes, many also provided financial data that indicated a substantial allocation for TCDC in their national budgets. In India, for example, the TCDC budget allocation for 1999-2000 was $170 million. The basic budget of the Singapore cooperation programme for 1999-2000 was $14.8 million; it covered 133 countries. Turkey allocated $180 million for international technical and economic cooperation, approximately 0.05 per cent of its gross domestic product; about 80 per cent of that amount was for TCDC.

Chile allocated $2.3 million from its national budget for TCDC in 1999. Despite the economic setback of 1997/1998, Indonesia allocated $200 000 from its national budget for TCDC/ECDC during 1999-2000 in addition to using $141 000 of UNDP resources and a $600 000 Japanese grant for the same purpose. In the biennium under review, Pakistan allocated $500 000 from its national budget for TCDC and in 1999, it also launched a five-year $542 000 UNDP umbrella programme for TCDC. The allocation for TCDC from the Thai national budget was $237 346 while triangular arrangements provided another $301 266. China gave special attention to TCDC and ECDC activities in Africa, providing low-interest funds for African development, setting up joint ventures, expanding two-way trade and contributing to human resource development. It is very encouraging to note that in 2000, China decided to reduce or cancel, during the next two years, the debt worth over $1.2 billion owed by some African countries, most of them LDCs.

18. *Greater focus on the development of human resources.* From the reported data, it is clear that more and more developing countries are using TCDC as a viable means of human resource development. During the biennium under review, China held 35 training courses for 900 trainees from abroad and also sent experts to other developing countries. India hosted about 2 000 personnel in 110 training institutions during this period and more trainees from the private sector were accommodated. Indonesia intensified its training programmes for developing-country personnel and also upgraded the quality of its training institutions in family planning, agriculture, health, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and public works. A large number of trainees, especially from Africa, received training in these fields. Malaysia trained personnel from other developing countries in its many national institutes, especially in information technology and public administration. In 1999, the country developed a tailor-made training programme for diplomats and public servants of Myanmar. Pakistan also provided training to a large number of developing-country personnel in diverse fields, and in 2000, it offered 2 000 places in international training courses in over 140 national institutions. During the 1999-2000 biennium, Singapore sponsored training courses and study visits for over 7 000 participants from 133 countries and Sri Lanka hosted experts primarily from the region to learn about banana fibre, wind power and crab breeding. Tunisia developed excellent facilities for training and many specialized training programmes were conducted there at the behest of international or interregional organizations. Cuba is helping Colombia and the Dominican Republic with human resource development at the local levels while receiving assistance from Chile and Peru. Mexico accorded the highest priority to the development of human resources in the region. To provide better service, it upgraded its training institutions under cooperation arrangements with its partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Under a Japanese triangular programme, Mexico is also providing training to teachers of industrial and technical schools in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region.

19. *Increasing emphasis on preparing needs-based TCDC programmes and joint programming.* Sending out TCDC missions to partner countries and forming joint (government-government) or mixed (public-private) commissions have become increasingly important approaches to improving the relevance and responsiveness of TCDC programmes among cooperating developing countries. In Africa, for example, Benin, Guyana, Seychelles, Uganda and Uruguay worked through joint commissions with other developing countries to identify their TCDC priorities and areas of mutual cooperation. In the LAC region, Brazil's horizontal cooperation programmes were drawn up with various countries of the region through annual discussions and financed using resources from both national budgets and multilateral sources such as the International Office of Migration, Organization of American States (OAS), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) or UNDP. Mexico utilized bilateral mixed commissions to draw up cooperation programmes with Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Hungary and Peru during 1999 and 2000. Peru dispatched missions for programming horizontal cooperation to Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador Honduras, and Uruguay and received missions from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, and Uruguay. Turkey reported that it had signed 72 bilateral agreements with 44 developing countries, 30 of them of the TCDC/ECDC type.

20. In the Asia and the Pacific region, China sent two TCDC missions to the South Pacific and Africa in 1999 to develop its TCDC programmes. Malaysia sent missions to Algeria, Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan to help to prepare their national development plans. Pakistan sent three TCDC missions to Egypt, Malaysia and Thailand not only to find areas of cooperation with these countries but also to identify the countries' comparative advantages that could benefit a larger number of other developing countries. Singapore sent a mission to Japan to learn about its technical cooperation programmes and to Botswana, Cambodia, Myanmar, Namibia, South Africa, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe to develop its bilateral TCDC programmes. Thailand sent a TCDC mission to East Timor to develop a programme of cooperation. In addition, with China, Thailand has undertaken a programme of research and development in traditional Chinese medicine in which both its public and private sectors were active partners.

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21. *Two-way exchanges and convergence of efforts for mutual benefit.* During the review period, an increasing number of developing countries shifted from the traditional provision of one-way assistance to two-way exchanges and joint efforts in which a country acted as both provider and recipient of technical cooperation. For example, West African countries, with support from Japan, collaborated with one another and with institutions in countries in other regions to develop and market new high-yielding rice seeds. Pakistan paid special attention to the development of science and technology and collaborated with China and Malaysia to upgrade one another's skills and systems in this field. Moldova and Romania also developed a two-way plan to exchange expertise and experiences in external debt management. This pattern is much more evident in the LAC region, however. Chile, for example, has programmes of mutual cooperation – as both recipient and donor – with Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. Costa Rica has been active in horizontal cooperation with Argentina, Chile and Mexico where it has been a recipient, and with the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, where it has been a provider. Peru took lessons from Guatemala's experience with the Peace Commission in designing its ombudsman system and at the same time drew lessons from South Africa's Truth Commission experience. Peru also supported another two-way interregional exchange initiative in the areas of fisheries, agriculture and medicine with Egypt, Hungary, Morocco and Poland.

22. *Building partnerships around common development issues.* Developing countries gave greater attention to development issues of common concern, some of which called for sustained engagement. This orientation resulted in more sophisticated and complex forms of exchanges as well as greater involvement of IGOs, NGOs, the private sector and Southern centres of excellence. Various developing countries undertook initiatives to pool their institutional, intellectual and technical capacities in order to tackle issues of common concern, especially those relating to globalization. For example, in 1999, Indonesia hosted a series of interregional brainstorming sessions on issues relevant to the globalization process such as social safety nets, poverty alleviation policies and trade policies. The South Centre and the Third World Network contributed to the articulation of Southern views on trade and investment policies and the preparation of an agenda for global negotiations for the South. China held an international conference on information and communication technology that attracted participants from 20 developing countries in Africa, Asia, Central and East Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Republic of Korea supported and hosted the High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology in February 2000, which adopted the Seoul Accord on science and technology cooperation for development. This is being followed up by the formulation of a flagship platform on science and technology for development. In April 2000, Tunisia, with the support of Japan, the International Monetary Fund, UNDP and the World Bank, held a seminar on external debt for 24 African countries.[3] Another significant event was the first South Summit of the Group of 77, which was held in Havana, Cuba in April 2000. The Programme of Action adopted at this Summit provided the South with a rigorous, action-oriented agenda for cooperation among developing countries. In its TCDC activities, Turkey was closely involved with the transfer of experience on the globalization process in countries of Central and East Europe.

23. *Increased regional and interregional cooperation.* Many of the programmes discussed earlier under human resource development, joint planning, two-way exchanges or initiatives of common concern are regional or interregional in character. Additional examples of regional cooperation include the efforts of Costa Rica, which aimed at strengthening technical and economic ties with neighbours in the Central America and Caribbean region. The study of the impact of El Niño, partially funded by OAS, involved Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, with Peru in the lead role. Madagascar reported that its participation in three regional programmes, supported by the European Union and relating to trade expansion, environmental protection and the development of human resources, represented its major TCDC programmes during the biennium 1999-2000. All of the members of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)[4] participated in these programmes.

24. While regional cooperation remained strong, interregional cooperation also grew rapidly during the biennium. For example, Guinea's TCDC programmes involved Cuba and China while Cuba participated in the TCDC programmes of the Seychelles. Cuba also provided medical experts and health care systems to many countries outside the LAC region. Chile supported interregional programmes in the Arab States and Central and East Europe regions. China had programmes of cooperation on small hydropower with India and with African countries, mushroom breeding with many African and South Pacific countries, and renewable energy development with African countries. Malaysia undertook an integrated agricultural development project in Malawi and, under a triangular arrangement with France, it was also involved in a programme to facilitate the transfer of its experience and technology in economic management and industrialization to African countries. India had programmes on farming and entrepreneurship development in Burkina Faso, Namibia and Senegal. Indonesia brought African personnel to Indonesia for training and sent experts to Africa

under a triangular programme for agricultural and SME development in Africa, with funding from Japan. Brazil was active in interregional programmes, i.e., cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa or East Timor in the Asia and Pacific region. In general, many interregional programmes reflected long-term engagements and broad partnerships.

25. Despite the significant progress and new developments highlighted above, most of the respondents from developing countries indicated that limited human and financial resources constituted the main constraint to the expansion of TCDC. In addition, for some countries, the scope of TCDC remained one-sided and its potential could not be fully explored. This was particularly true for LDCs such as Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Congo, El Salvador, Guinea, Guyana, Madagascar, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sudan, Togo and Uganda. For example, Benin depended largely on expertise from Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia; there was no two-way cooperation. The same was true for Bhutan, which still focused on cooperation with China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand and for Cambodia, whose main TCDC partners were China, India and the other countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The TCDC activities of Bolivia, El Salvador and Guyana were limited largely to other countries in the LAC region.

IV. PROGRESS MADE BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

26. An analysis of the responses provided by the 10 developed countries indicates that donor countries continued to acknowledge TCDC as a viable, useful approach to technical cooperation because it strengthened developing countries' ownership of and partnership in their own development. Many of the donors maintained that multilateral aid has the primary responsibility for the promotion of TCDC. However, all of the donors were increasingly supporting TCDC activities aimed at institutional and human capacity-building in their bilateral aid programmes. They also accelerated triangular cooperation in these bilateral initiatives, thereby financing programmes that were developed and managed by the developing countries themselves. Such programmes involved development activities such as the training of personnel, replication of systems and technologies, use of Southern expertise or development of platforms of action. Some donors focused on regional and interregional TCDC initiatives. Most donors preferred to facilitate South-South exchanges by supporting Southern centres of excellence and knowledge-networking among Southern institutions. Some made greater use of developing-country experts in their aid programmes. A few found that a more thematic or sectoral programme approach supported TCDC more easily.

27. *Support to the development of human resources through third-country training programmes and the use of Southern experts.* Third-country training programmes (TCTPs) have become more popular with the donors as a means of developing human resources in the developing countries. For example, in 2000 alone, Japan's TCTPs with Kenya, Singapore and Thailand trained 181 participants from Africa (including 65 Kenyans in Kenya's institutions) and another 250 trainees in Thailand in different specialized courses). Under Japan's third-country experts programme with Singapore and Thailand, Singaporean experts were sent to South Africa and Thai experts to Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam. Sweden's TCTP with Uruguay supported a training programme in economics in Uruguay for Cuban government officials. Under another Swedish TCTP, trainees from other developing countries received training in Singapore in various fields. Sweden also gave preference to the use of experts from developing countries in its technical cooperation programmes. Australia also has a policy of using host or other developing-country experts in its aid programmes.

28. *Support to TCDC through established regional programmes and programmes of other reputable institutions.* Donors find that supporting tested regional or interregional programmes or programmes of reputable regional or national institutions is a reliable method of delivering cooperation. The Australian aid programme supports regional programmes that involve the sharing of expertise and experiences between developing countries. Australia cited the following activities as promoting TCDC/ECDC: the ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Programme, participation in the Pacific Islands Forum, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Forum Fisheries Agency; and collaboration with the Colombo Plan. Australia is also directly assisting the Southern African Wildlife College and Taro Genetic Resources Project in Pacific island countries. Canada supported an environmental project in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam that promoted TCDC among the participants. An interregional programme of cooperation between members of the Association of Fully or Partially French-language Universities, supported by Canada, helped francophone African countries, e.g., Burundi, to upgrade the quality of higher education with inputs from the developing

countries of West Africa. Germany supports regional cooperation initiatives between developing countries and regional organizations on many continents. Its support for TCDC/ECDC is illustrated by its support to a programme on the management of water catchment areas in the lower Mekong Basin and another on research for alternative development in drug-growing areas of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) increasingly involved national public institutions, community-based organizations and NGOs in its aid programmes as a means of supporting TCDC.

29. *Support to centres of excellence.* Many development partners contribute substantially to capacity development in the South through direct and indirect support to centres of excellence in the developing countries. The programme Australian Regional Development Scholarships in the Pacific was set up for scholars of the region who study or undertake research in the institutes in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu. Canada supported the South Asia Regional Human Development Centre in Islamabad, which uses the TCDC modality in its research work. Its South-East Asian regional programme in Singapore not only promoted Singapore-Canada cooperation but also provided for South-South cooperation in South-East Asia. Germany supported regional and national centres of excellence in Africa and Latin America as well as a project on post-graduate agricultural training in South African Development Cooperation countries aimed at enhancing the capacity of institutions and scholars in southern Africa.

30. *Support to knowledge-sharing through networking.* Developed countries found that knowledge-sharing among developing countries is best carried out through networks of institutions in the South. They therefore supported those networks on many continents. Denmark (DANIDA) promoted South-South cooperation by backing networking activities among its Southern partners. Sweden considered networks of developing-country institutions to be an important step in capacity-building and problem-solving. It is financing five different networks, i.e., the Renewable Energy Technologies Network in Asia, consisting of 13 countries and headquartered at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok; the Asian Regional Research Programme in Energy, Environment and Climate, comprising 18 institutions in eight countries and also based at AIT; the African Energy Policy Research Network, made up of 11 countries, with a steering committee based in Nairobi; the East African Regional Network for Bio-technology, Bio-safety and Bio-technology Policy Development, coordinated by Uganda; and the Central American Seismological Research Network, which is located in six regional universities.

31. *Support to TCDC using the thematic or sectoral programme approach.* Some developed countries considered that South-South cooperation would be better served if support were provided to thematic issues of concern to a region or if a sectoral programming technique were followed in a country assistance strategy. The Netherlands in particular highlighted a bilateral sectoral approach as a means of supporting TCDC. Under this approach, it co-financed sectoral programmes in 22 countries via multi-donor basket-funding, which facilitated the use of Southern technical resources for any element of the programme. The Netherlands also stated that its support to specific thematic issues such as agriculture, gender and the environment promoted South-South cooperation. In Latin America, it supported a population programme under a triangular arrangement with the countries of the region along with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). German regional sectoral projects promoted the exchange of knowledge and experience between developing countries.

32. *Other ways to support TCDC.* As awareness of the validity of TCDC grew, the developed countries re-emphasized the need for its greater use in development cooperation and tried various ways to increase that use. Germany observed that there were TCDC components in country projects in its bilateral cooperation programme. Norway reported that it was funding TCDC projects in individual countries that were usually co-financed with other bilateral or multilateral donors. Estonia, as a new contributing country, not only funded humanitarian aid programmes but also provided technical assistance on governance directly to Bosnia and Herzogovina and to Ukraine on information technology. In 1999, its aid programme totalled $400 000. Ireland remained very supportive of TCDC, primarily through its bilateral and regional technical assistance programmes. In addition, it contributed to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation during 1999-2000. Japan has been a strong advocate and supporter of South-South cooperation. It considers triangular cooperation not as an alternative but as a complementary modality for the delivery of both bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation. During the period under review, Japan provided approximately $10 million through the UNDPJapan Human Resources Development Fund (JHRDF) in support of triangular cooperation programmes as a follow-up to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).

33. *TCDC as a main responsibility of multilateral agencies.* A few donors stated that since TCDC was an important element of international cooperation, it should be promoted mainly by the multilateral agencies. Switzerland maintained that multilateral agencies had the comparative advantage in giving priority to TCDC. It also suggested that UNDP should treat TCDC as a core function to be funded by core resources. The Netherlands held the view that South-South cooperation should be integrated into the implementation of programmes by all United Nations organizations. Norway indicated that its support to TCDC was channelled mainly through its contribution to UNDP.

V. PROGRESS MADE BY THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN PROMOTING TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

34. The analysis of the relevant information revealed that the United Nations organizations and other development partners remained important agents in promoting and catalysing technical and economic cooperation among developing countries. Given the varying nature and specialized areas of competency of the organizations reporting, their progress is presented individually within three categories, namely: (a) organizations of the United Nations system, including regional commissions; (b) UNDP and the Special Unit for TCDC; and (c) IGOs and NGOs.

A. Support provided by organizations of the United Nations system

35. It was observed that all United Nations organizations have TCDC focal points and many give some, if not the first, consideration to the use of TCDC in their operational activities. The analysis revealed a number of trends in their provision of support. These include: (a) the decentralization of operations to the field level and the use of regional advisers to promote TCDC; (b) special efforts by most organizations to use developing-country experts; (c) an increase in public-private cooperation; (d) execution of regional and interregional programmes primarily through the TCDC modality; (e) provision of support to centres of excellence in developing countries and the establishment of networks of developing-country institutions to foster TCDC; and (f) efforts by many organizations to find their own distinctive programmes through which to support TCDC/ECDC. The progress made by each of the organizations that responded is highlighted below.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

36. The United Nations UNESCAP Regional Advisers are expected to concentrate on TCDC. ESCAP reported that most of its extrabudgetary financing is sought for TCDC. It also uses triangular cooperation for training programmes, e.g., programmes in Malaysia and Singapore for the benefit of other developing countries. UNESCAP also maintains a supplementary fund for TCDC. UNESCAP estimates that in the biennium 1999-2000, it allocated $466 000 from the regular budget and $215 000 from the supplementary fund and spent $8.82 million from extrabudgetary resources for TCDC. UNESCAP found that TCDC umbrella projects supported by UNDP are important, particularly for small countries.

37. In March 1999, UNESCAP supported the establishment of the Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific (LOGOTRI), headquartered in Nepal. Of its 15 members, 11 are developing countries. LOGOTRI is serving as an effective platform for the introduction of new technologies in training and research activities[5] such as Internet-based workshops and the total quality management concept in local governments.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

38. FAO has made a significant effort to integrate TCDC and ECDC into its overall policy and programme. One of the twelve objectives of its strategic framework for 2000-2015, adopted in November 1999, is to reach cooperation agreements with member nations and support TCDC and ECDC.

39. Partnership programmes are one of the main FAO instruments for increasing the use of TCDC. They include the TCDC/technical cooperation among countries in transition (TCCT) experts programme, the visiting experts programme, the retired experts programme, and the on-the-job training programme for young professionals. Under the TCDC/TCCT experts framework, special efforts are made to recruit experts from the developing countries. During the

biennium 1999-2000, the number of participating countries increased to 127, and TCDC/TCCT experts undertook 596 missions. Under the visiting experts programme, special efforts were made to obtain experts from academic and research institutions of the South. Young professionals from the South are also particularly targeted under the on-the-job training programme. In one programme assisted by Japanese financing, for example, young professionals from five African countries were associated with the implementation of FAO-supported priority programmes in selected African and Asian countries to enable them to return to their jobs better equipped to meet a variety of challenges.

40. The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) has developed into a strategic TCDC initiative involving TCDC, ECDC and triangular cooperation. Under SPFS, the participating countries prepare multi-faceted production, marketing and income-earning plans suited to their individual conditions. In 1997, the South-South Cooperation Scheme (SSCS) was launched as a modality for the implementation of the SPFS. This scheme provides for the transfer of experience of a more advanced developing country to another developing country through the assignment of numerous experts over a period of two or three years. While SPFS is operational in 60 countries, SSCS is operational in only 14 countries, namely, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and United Republic of Tanzania. Only Bangladesh is both a recipient and a provider: for Gambia, it is a provider; for China, it is a recipient. FAO estimated that financial support obtained for SPFS totalled $100 million.

41. In November 2000, the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CityNet) and the Association of Food Marketing Agencies in Asia and the Pacific, with FAO collaboration, assembled leaders from 16 Asian countries and eight other countries to draw up a programme on feeding the Asian cities. This public-private joint effort drew special attention to the food supply and distribution system and emphasized the importance of environmental measures to arrest the pollution of land and water.

42. FAO is exploiting information technology very effectively for TCDC. The Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases has turned into an Internet-based early warning system to enable countries to team up against outbreaks of diseases or pest attacks. The recent compendium of best practices entitled "Innovative and successful experiences from developing countries and countries in transition" is available at WIDE Online. In 2000, FAO, which has an ongoing open electronic forum on biotechnology, organized four interrelated electronic conferences on this topic over a period of seven months.

International Trade Centre (ITC)

43. The ITC is firmly committed to TCDC. One of its corporate objectives is to promote linkages between institutions for the transfer of proven expertise, experience and best practices among developing and transitional economies. In the biennium 1999-2000, ITC mobilized $2.5 million in extrabudgetary resources for South-South trade promotion. Seeking to build a critical mass of core World Trade Organization (WTO) expertise at the national level in the South, ITC targeted establishing or supporting interactive networks under the World Trade Net programme, which would facilitate contacts and exchanges between networks, disseminate up-to-date information on developments in the world trading system and support national networks in providing advisory and training services on WTO issues. Since 1998, more than 10 local networks have been created in African and Asian countries, and it is anticipated that six to nine countries will join the World Trade Net every year. The World Trade Net programme is an effort to tackle the emerging challenges of globalization.

44. The ITC flagship programme has been the South-South trade promotion programme. Originally set up in the mid 1980s in Africa, the programme entails subregional trade flow analysis and country-specific demand-supply surveys leading to buyers-sellers meetings. In 1998, it was successfully introduced in the Arab States region. Issues such as harmonization of product registration and quality assurance arose at a buyers-sellers meeting on pharmaceuticals organized in Bangkok in February 2000 for South-East and South Asia. Follow-up action has involved the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and the Quality of Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics.

45. ITC moved to take up the challenge of trade expansion in southern Africa through two strategies: forging strategic alliances between southern African enterprises and companies and creating a network of trade support institutions (TSIs) in the region. A total of 16 countries in the region are participating in the ongoing programme.[7] To date, 24 staff of TSIs have been trained, 19 country-specific supply-and-demand surveys have been completed and

company profiling is being carried out. A total of 100 enterprises participated in two buyers-sellers meetings, which resulted in $10 million of intra-trade and several joint ventures that are under negotiation.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

46. UNCTAD recently established a coordinator for ECDC, which is one of its primary tasks. Since TCDC is a component of ECDC as well as a means of enhancing ECDC, UNCTAD is particularly active in both TCDC and ECDC. UNCTAD highlighted several activities in its reporting on TCDC/ECDC. The programme Entrepreneurship Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EMPRETEC), earlier confined to partnerships between countries in the Africa and LAC regions, has expanded to include Asian-African partnerships and is also being tried in the Russian Federation. The programme creates employment opportunities, focuses on women entrepreneurs and promotes foreign trade. Another initiative, the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP), which was launched in 1989, now has 44 participants. UNCTAD provides technical support in GSTP negotiations, advice on promoting subregional integration, and analyses of trade impact.

47. At the country level, UNCTAD has focused on 10 to 12 low-income countries to equip them with the necessary tools and institutions for integration into the global economy. UNCTAD has also undertaken science and technology policy reviews for selected countries such as Colombia, Ethiopia, Jamaica, and Uganda in which special attention was paid to TCDC. It is also helping to build capacity in developing countries through the International Investment Agreements project, which deals with the implications of a multilateral investment framework. In 1999, UNCTAD organized five regional symposia on this subject, including one specifically for the LDCs.

United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)

48. TCDC has become a very important modality in UNDCP operations. Most of the UNDCP programmes are subregional. Examples of the numerous subregional programmes involving TCDC include: (a) Drug Law Enforcement in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru; (b) Reduction of Drug Demand in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay; (c) Drug Demand Reduction in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama; (d) Precursor Control in Brazil and Colombia; (e) Drug Law Enforcement in Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland; (f) Drug Law Enforcement in Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia; (g) Drug Law Enforcement in Egypt and Palestine; and (h) Drug Supply Reduction, Drug Law Enforcement and Drug Demand Reduction in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. In most of these programmes, one or more countries took the lead role.

49. Interregional programmes are few in number. They involve Africa and Latin America on the issue of HIV/AIDS among drug farmers and drug abusers and West Asia, Central Asia and East Europe on drug control and law enforcement.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

50. UNFPA, which has been promoting TCDC through several strategies and actions, uses this modality most frequently in decentralized country programmes. In addition, in the biennium 1999-2000, UNFPA mobilized $5 million, under triangular arrangements, for programmes executed in the TCDC modality. The strengthening of six centres of excellence in China, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey has provided for the coordinated institutional exchange of expertise and experiences. According to UNFPA, the documentation and dissemination of best practices constitute a very important vehicle for TCDC and the UNFPA country support team system has been helpful in mobilizing developing country resources for cooperation programmes and the replication of best practices.

51. The Partners in Population and Development programme, established following the International Conference on Population and Development, now has 16 members.[8] It has successfully established networks of interested parties in the member countries as well as one for the South at large and has set up a clearinghouse for information on population and reproductive health. In the biennium 1999-2000, $3.5 million of its $3.9 million budget were raised from the private sector. The South-South Training in Sexual and Reproductive Health programme in Latin America is another successful initiative that took advantage of a triangular arrangement with the Netherlands. Professionals from over 14 countries in

the region[9] benefited from orientation in the Mexico centre of excellence and from attachment to PROFAMILIA, a Colombian NGO.

United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

52. UNAIDS continued to rely on its strategy of building regional technical resources networks (TRNs) and strengthening the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa. The TRN on strategic planning in West and Central Africa has been established and is operational. In Latin America, a similar network called the Horizontal Technical Collaboration Group, has also been created. Work is now being done to expand the clientele of national networks of both institutions and individuals in order to increase the effectiveness of their operations.

53. A total of 18 countries[10] are now participating in the West African Initiative, which targets migration, sex work, community mobilization and support to affected people as priority areas. Presently, UNAIDS is undertaking preliminary work to identify institutions and service providers, with a view to launching a programme in South-East Asia to increase electronic connectivity and capacity among strategic allies in eight countries.[11]

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

54. The use of TCDC is mandated by the Universal Postal Congress and the Universal Postal Council of Administration has suggested measures for carrying out this mandate. UPU achieves a high level of application of the TCDC modality through three mechanisms. Its routine practice of using national postal officials attracts a large number of experts from the developing countries. Its International Bureau requires exchanges between national specialists and studies. In addition, one of the prime responsibilities of Regional Advisers is the dissemination of TCDC experiences. Postal-sector restructuring and reform that dominates the sector are now being undertaken under the TCDC modality.

World Health Organization (WHO)

55. WHO, which functions mainly through regional offices, was one of the first agencies to set up focal points for TCDC in those offices. A full review of the TCDC situation is currently under way in most regions and at headquarters as a result of the meeting of the Global Programme Management Group in Manila in December 2000, which called for an agency-wide reinvigoration of TCDC. According to the Organization, "many inter-country health activities in the WHO regions are of a TCDC nature although they are implemented less as conscious efforts to promote TCDC than the fact that it was the most logical way to achieve project objectives." For example, WHO promotes TCDC in its training programme since all training activities are centred on regional institutions. It has assisted the Non-Aligned Movement to set up a global network for health sector reforms and it is also attempting to bring successful lessons from the Americas to Africa. Responding to the new directions strategy, WHO undertook an education programme to highlight the implications of WTO measures on health issues.

56. WHO TCDC activities were also in evidence in the Asia and Pacific region. The Programme of Inter-country Cooperation for Health Development in the Twenty-first Century, which now involves 14 countries of South, South-East and East Asia,[12] deals with seven major areas of health concern. One country has taken the lead role for each area of concern, e.g., Bangladesh for early childhood development; the Philippines for women and reproductive health; or Sri Lanka for nutrition and general child health. For the Pacific islands, the Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) has a Healthy Islands programme under which the concept and vision are articulated and reviewed in periodic meetings of the countries involved. Within this framework, case studies, demonstration projects, country programmes and guidelines are prepared. Results of this programme include control of communicable diseases in the region and weight loss in countries with an obesity problem. Another programme supported by WPRO is 100 per cent condom use among sex workers and their clients in South-East Asia. The programme involves the government and the private sector in Cambodia, China, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The activities of PAHO, the WHO regional office in the LAC region, is described in subsection C of the present report.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

57. WIPO provides technical assistance to developing countries through the Cooperation for Development Programme; about 70 per cent of this programme's budget is devoted to TCDC. A nationally focused action plan that is demand-driven and based on needs assessment is prepared for each country. To deliver technical assistance, WIPO concentrates on creating platforms for the exchange of knowledge and information, study tours and on-the-job training in developing countries; strengthening regional training institutes and linking or twinning of national institutes; organizing training courses and workshops in developing countries; networking inventors of developing countries through societies of inventors, fairs and exhibitions; and reinforcing subregional intellectual property structures. A successful programme for the training of personnel from the Asia and Pacific region, undertaken in collaboration with Singapore, involved the use of experts from the region (e.g., from Malaysia or Hong Kong) as resource persons in addition to the Singaporean human resources. In 1999 and 2000, the programme attracted participants from many countries.

58. WIPO cited COSMOS, a data processing management tool designed for the collective management of copyrights, as a success story. WIPO trained a computer specialist from the Copyright Office of Burkina Faso. This specialist first made the software user-friendly and then designed a new software package, named AFRICOS, which can process all three elements of the collective management of copyright, i.e., documentation of authors and works, users of works and distribution of royalties. The demonstration of the software took place in WIPO in 2000. At present, Guinea, Madagascar and Mali have their experts trained in the Burkina Faso Copyright Office; Morocco has installed the software in its Copyright Office; Benin and Malawi are working on installing it; and Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Niger and United Republic of Tanzania are in the process of obtaining it.

B. Support provided by the United Nations Development Programme and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

59. The UNDP policy stance and renewed commitment to the promotion of South-South cooperation were well articulated in the Administrator's Business Plans, which stressed the need to disseminate best practices and lessons learned among programme countries. The Administrator also expressed his intention to draw increasingly on UNDP global and regional programmes to support South-South cooperation and to strengthen TCDC linkages to programmes at the country level.

60. The UNDP role as a broker and facilitator for the South-South sharing of experiences, expertise and knowledge is particularly pronounced in its regional and global programmes as well as the programme of the Special Unit for TCDC. The fact that more than fifty per cent of the UNDP country programmes have adopted TCDC as one modality of programme implementation and 33 country offices actually reported on their TCDC activities during the biennium under review showed that the TCDC modality has been increasingly used in UNDP programming. Generally, country offices support TCDC through umbrella projects in addition to projects developed around the specific needs of various partners. For example, the UNDP office in Cambodia has sponsored trainees in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The UNDP office in Brazil supported a TCDC programme in collaboration with Portuguese-speaking nations of Africa. In Barbados, Benin, Brazil, China, Cuba, El Salvador, Indonesia, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay, UNDP supported projects that provided catalytic funding for TCDC activities undertaken by the respective countries. Capacity-building has been the main focus of these programmes and those supported by other developing countries. Many of these programmes focused on the building of systems and skills required in the process of integration into the global economy.

61. UNDP collaboration with various regional organizations has broadened support for TCDC in regional and global programmes. For example, the Integrated Regional Programme for the Promotion of Trade was launched under the auspices of the IOC countries in partnership with the European Union. Under the University of the Indian Ocean Programme, the IOC institutions of higher learning have formed an all-purpose network for collaboration in academic research work. The South Pacific Island States have had similar regional programmes relating to the fisheries industry and environmental management. Other regional initiatives have included the Euro Asia Land bridge involving Mongolia, the Russian Federation and Central Asian countries. The Mekong River programme is a major development initiative involving Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, with support from the Asian Development Bank as part of its investment promotion. RBAP has supported five successful TCDC programmes on

capacity-building, e.g., Gender Equality for Science and Technology, which has created an electronic network to disseminate technology relating to farming and renewable energy resources suitable for replication by women.[14] Under the global programme, UNDP supported the three-year programme entitled Globalization, Liberalization and Sustainable Human Development, which was implemented by UNCTAD. This programme has helped developing countries to participate effectively in global negotiations.

62. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme continued to demonstrate its strong leadership role in international volunteerism during the biennium 1999-2000. The number of volunteer recruits, serving in about 140 developing countries, reached a historical high of close to 10 000 in the period under review. Approximately 70 per cent of the volunteers were from developing countries. Most noteworthy is the increased emphasis placed by the Programme on countries in special situations, countries undergoing political and economic transformation, and LDCs. Designated as the United Nations focal point for the International Year of Volunteers 2001, UNV has embarked on an innovative concept of on-line volunteering aimed at mobilizing a new generation of volunteers motivated to help developing countries to meet upcoming challenges of the twenty-first century.

63. Through the programmes of the Special Unit for TCDC, UNDP allocated $5.63 million from the core resources during the 1999-2000 biennium to enable the Special Unit to perform its mandated functions. These resources attracted non-core funding totalling $11.9 million from a variety of donors. Most of the non-core resources were provided by Japan through the Japanese Human Resources Development Fund and by China, Ireland and the Republic of Korea through the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation.

64. To optimize the use of these resources, the Special Unit reoriented its activities to focus on the following: (a) enhancing the strategic capacities of developing countries to address the emerging policy and institutional challenges of globalization and multilateral negotiations; (b) strengthening knowledge-networking around priority development issues in the South; and (c) building broad-based partnerships and leveraging additional resources for common development concerns. As a result of this new orientation, the Special Unit has managed to avoid spreading its resources too thinly and it has succeeded in concentrating its endeavours on activities that promise to make an impact on large numbers of developing countries rather than on isolated bilateral initiatives.

65. The Special Unit adopted a participatory approach to programme development, which involves listening and partnering with public- and private-sector representatives, United Nations organizations, NGOs, civil society and donors in the course of designing and implementing TCDC programmes. The process revolves around the identification of a problem common to a group of countries followed by a search for solutions from other developing countries with tested experience in tackling the problem at hand.

66. Following the adoption of a participatory approach to its programming, the Special Unit developed flagship programmes, six of which are discussed below. The first relates to strengthening the international competitiveness of selected Arab States countries in global trade through the enhancement of their quality assurance policies and institutions. The Special Unit collaborated with the Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS), the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to develop this programme. AIDMO and the standards institutes of participating countries are the executing agents. The beneficiary countries are Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen and the countries sharing proven experience are Colombia, Malaysia, Namibia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Turkey. The programme aims to assist participating countries in the formulation of national quality policies and the establishment or strengthening of national standardization and accreditation institutions. It also assists in human resource development, the setting up of an interregional knowledge network and the establishment of common regional accreditation services. Its ultimate goal is the removal of impediments to trade promotion and expansion through improved quality assurance.

67. The second flagship initiative supported the formulation of inclusive social policies to mitigate the negative aspects of globalization. The Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies has spearheaded this effort, which includes counterpart institutions in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco. The Special Unit, RBAS and ESCWA are supporting the initiative and the countries likely to provide advisory services based on their past experience on the subject are Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Philippines and Republic of Korea. The South-South platform being developed for policy dialogue on social policies and the exchange of best practices promises to result in new

approaches to social protection, labour welfare, pension reform, and social security, particularly for individuals in the informal sector. The Ford Foundation has offered $100 000 for this programme.

68. The third flagship programme is being developed in Africa with three objectives. Mastering the legal and economic challenges of innovation policy so as to reduce the social costs of compliance with international obligations is the first objective. The second is to enhance the economic and social benefits of participating in international agreements that affect local innovators and creators. The ultimate objective is to build strengths and complementarities in traditional know-how, bio-resources and folklore.

69. Another major programme initiated in the period under review focuses on cooperation in science and technology for development. At the preparatory stage, the Republic of Korea sponsored a conference on science and technology in February 2000. The twelfth session of the High-level Committee will consider this theme in greater detail in anticipation of a flagship programme for sharing the contributions of science and technology in areas such as food security, clean and renewable energy and the establishment of a network of South-South research and development.

70. The Special Unit has also formulated a programme to support the efforts of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in diversifying their production base, enhancing their international competitiveness and facilitating their integration into the global economy. The programme is premised on providing support to SMEs that aims at improving their efficiency, output, competitiveness, credit support systems, marketing strategies and identification of market opportunities through training in techniques for packaging, e-commerce, and e-advertising. The beneficiary countries are Cape Verde, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica and Seychelles. Countries providing advisory services on SMEs are Brazil, Egypt and Indonesia. The Special Unit will provide the managerial oversight, focusing mainly on monitoring progress. Initial financing is provided by UNDP and the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

71. A new model of South-South technical cooperation, launched by the Administrator, is being developed to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Central to this evolving model are efforts to fight AIDS in Botswana, drawing upon the Brazilian experience of countering the disease through the country's education system. Substantial financial contributions towards its implementation are expected from private-sector sources.

72. In addition to flagship programmes initiated since 1998, the Special Unit has supported a number of ongoing initiatives, some of which produced significant resulted in the period under review, as discussed below.

73. The Africa-Asia Joint Rice Research initiative launched in 1997 by the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) entered its final phase in 2000. Under this initiative, 17 West African research institutes have, under the auspices of WARDA, collaborated with similar institutes in China, France, Japan and the United States, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture to pool resources and develop new African upland rice varieties called Nerica. More than 5 000 farmers in 17 West African countries have participated in the planting of Nerica, which promises to increase annual rice production in the subregion by 250 to 750 thousand tons, reducing imports by 10 to 25 per cent. The impact of this programme is significant, considering that the region stands to save between $62 million and $187 million in resources currently spent on rice imports. It is estimated that farmers growing Nerica are likely to increase their incomes from rice by 25 per cent.

74. A programme reflecting TCDC, ECDC and triangular cooperation is the Africa-Asia Business Forum (AABF), launched in 1998 as a follow-up to the second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II). The Forum is a partnership initiative put together by the Special Unit in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia and the Malaysian South-South Corporation agency, with support from the Government of Japan, ITC, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency of the World Bank, UNCTAD, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and the UNDP Regional Bureaux for Africa and Asia and the Pacific. After arduous preparations, the first AABF was held in October 1999 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to explore new trade and investment opportunities for entrepreneurs in the two regions. It brought together about 230 business enterprises from 25 African countries and 6 Asian countries to conduct business deals. Twenty-seven memoranda of understanding were signed and to date, investment in confirmed deals amounts to approximately $20 million. The next Forum is planned for 2001 in the Republic of South Africa. It is expected that the number of private firms participating in AABF-II and the number of deals generated by the Forum will far exceed those of AABF-I.

75. A major on-going global programme that the Special Unit supports is the small island developing States initiative undertaken by UNDP as a sequel to the adoption of the Barbados Programme of Action by the United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994. With the assistance from the Special Unit, a Technical Assistance Programme for SIDS was prepared that identified unmet technical cooperation needs. The Special Unit also helped in the compilation of lists of SIDS experts and institutions. Furthermore, it set up the SIDS Network to enable SIDS to both access and provide information about themselves on the Internet. Under its country, regional and global programmes as well as with funding from the Global Environment Facility, UNDP supported programmes for Caribbean and Pacific SIDS that focused mainly on capacity-building and sustainable development and covered issues such as bio-diversity, global warming, ozone depletion, watershed management, offshore fisheries development, or water supply and sanitation. The United Nations Special session on SIDS held in September 1999 noted the lack of resources for the implementation of the Barbados Programme and appealed for stronger support and coordination. In the South-South Summit held in Havana in April 2000, the Administrator announced a $10 million three-year risk-reduction initiative for the Caribbean Basin. This initiative will strengthen capacities for disaster risk management and reduction and sustainable post-disaster recovery of the SIDS in this region.

76. The Special Unit's efforts to expand South-South channels of communication reached fruition in 2000. The old Information Referral Services database on TCDC was converted to a new Internet-based platform known as the Web of Information for Development (WIDE). Launched in February 2000, WIDE provides an array of services, including information on Southern expertise, innovative development practices, and an on-line discussion forum. In addition, the Unit has sought out internationally acclaimed writers and statesmen to contribute articles featured in its journal Cooperation South. This effort has in turn increased the publication's circulation among eminent individuals, world leaders and influential institutions. WIDE and Cooperation South are accessible on the Internet at www.undp.org/tcdc/tcdc.

77. It should be noted that the WIDE initiative has been implemented in collaboration with Southern experts and institutions although it received some funds through triangular arrangements. A Brazilian soft-ware development agency, *Centro de Estudos e Sistemas Avancades do Recife*, developed the system and its software, also offering to maintain the centerpiece of the initiative, namely, WIDE Online. A South Korean company, Comcast, offered to develop and maintain the WIDE news services. The databases on best practices have been developed with input from the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration, FAO, Third World Network (TWN) in Malaysia and Third World Network of Scientific Organizations in Italy. The databases on experts, institutions and training courses are prepared by the developing countries themselves.

C. Support provided by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

78. Regional cooperation programmes, networking, research, the gathering and dissemination of information, and the analysis of trade and other issues relating to globalization are among the TCDC priority areas that received considerable backing from IGOs and NGOs at the subregional and regional levels.

79. The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in Sudan is applying TCDC to its agricultural research work. AOAD had an allocation of $1.5 million from the regular budget of the Organization for its training programmes for the biennium 1999-2000. However, it had a budget of $6.2 million for its two special programmes supported by the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, Inter-American Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund and UNDP.

80. The Asian Development Bank reported that TCDC approaches were routinely applied in its technical assistance programmes, particularly those that were regional in scope. It also used the TCDC modality in its work in capacity-building, agricultural research under the auspices of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and HIV/AIDS programmes serving mobile populations in the Greater Mekong region.[14] The Bank also followed TCDC approaches in programmes to counter money laundering in selected States of the Asia and Pacific region,[16] and in programmes to assist regulatory systems and the networking of water utilities and regulatory bodies in 10 countries of South and South-East Asia.[17]

81. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) reported on applying TCDC to its research work on participatory plant breeding, social science research and technology development. Examples of other TCDC programmes supported by IRRI include the following: Rainfed Lowland Ecosystem Research, jointly undertaken in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand; Exploiting Bio-diversity for Rice Pest Management, which is being implemented in China, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam; and the International Research Programme on Methane Emission from Rice Fields, carried out in China, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.

82. The Latin American Economic System (SELA) is an organization of 28 States that is devoted to TCDC and ECDC. It undertakes horizontal cooperation activities through the mechanism of action committees established by interested members and is currently engaged in a regional programme on the maintenance and updating of databases to manage emergencies caused by natural disasters. In 1999, SELA, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean, organized a series of training workshops on information technology to enable countries to set up and maintain web sites. It also contributed to the establishment of the Latin American Information Technology network. Under triangular financing from Spain, SELA also supported a cooperative programme on SMEs in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America.

83. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) applied a TCDC approach in efforts to improve health throughout South and North America. Its subregional programmes, such as those on disinfecting water in Central America, sharing tertiary health services in the Caribbean and the elimination of Chaga disease in the Southern Cone countries, have all benefited from TCDC arrangements. PAHO reported that it cut costs by applying TCDC in its programme on the distribution of vaccines to its member countries in the Americas. This programme has now moved to collaborative research work aimed at increasing vaccine production. Through triangular cooperation with Sweden, PAHO is setting up a Central American health information and communication service. It has also developed programmes for strengthening diagnostic and surveillance capacity through collaboration between the laboratories of groups of countries such as Brazil and Paraguay or Mexico and Venezuela.

84. The South Centre is particularly concerned with research on and analysis of the implications of globalization for developing countries. A pilot project launched with the support of the Special Unit in 1998 undertook the monitoring and analysis of the work of the WTO from the perspective of the developing countries. The Centre has produced publications on the WTO agenda and briefed Southern delegates in preparation for various negotiations on trade and other global issues. It also prepared background papers on knowledge and technology as preparatory assistance for the South Summit of the Group of 77 held in Cuba in April 2000.

85. The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) in Turkey undertakes mainly training, study visits, seminars and workshops for member countries. Activities in the biennium under review focused mainly on workshops and training courses.

86. The Third World Network (TWN), located in Malaysia, has promoted capacity-building in the South by documenting development best practices for the WIDE Online database. During the period under review, the organization produced 20 research reports and 25 briefing papers and conducted many seminars and workshops for Southern negotiators, assisting them to form common positions on current development issues. Its most beneficial contribution to capacity-building concerns the strengthening of information bases for Southern policy-makers and negotiators. TWN publishes the South-North Development Monitor (SUNS), which provides detailed information on developments in the fields of trade, finance and development five days a week. Every fortnight, it also produces Third World Economics, which highlights current critical trade and development issues.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

87. The key objectives of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action constitute the yardstick for measuring the extent to which the policies and performance detailed in the present report have contributed to socio-economic progress in the South as envisaged by the Plan. The report indicates that developing countries continue to marshal creative capacities in finding solutions to the development challenges before them in this era of globalization. Last year's South Summit along with the many South-South forums mentioned in the report point to progress in concerted efforts to identify shared development challenges and their solutions.

88. National and regional institutions for research and training have been strengthened considerably and many Southern centres of excellence have improved their capacities. Globally, the greatest use of the TCDC modality was for training and study visits. Large numbers of developing-country personnel were trained in Southern institutions through bilateral programmes of developing countries as well as donor-supported third-country training programmes. There was also an increase in the training and fellowship programmes available in the institutions of developing countries under multilateral programmes. Efforts to expand beyond the training of individuals to transfer policy systems, institutional capacities and frameworks, management experience and style, and best practices from one group of developing countries to another group or groups are also noteworthy and should be encouraged.

89. The larger goal of participation in the global economy is now the driving force behind cooperation among developing countries. They have recognized that to mitigate the adverse impact of the globalization process or to secure advantages in the process of integration, a proper appreciation of crucial global issues and multilateral negotiation processes are urgently needed. This requires not only a higher level of capacity but also greater coordination in research, analysis, dialogue and meetings. It is recommended that developing countries coordinate their efforts in order to address their individual and common concerns more effectively and in line with objectives agreed in global conferences.

90. In this context, the emergence of a flagship approach to participatory TCDC programming is a welcome development. Developing and designing common platforms for action by multiple actors - national, regional and international, as well as the public and private sectors - are very arduous, time-consuming tasks. Such initiatives require a high level of coordination and monitoring and initial seed money to set up the platform. It is recommended that donor countries and other countries in a position to do so commit financial support for these initiatives at an early stage of programme conception and formulation and that such support be provided through the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation in order to optimize the use of resources. It is also recommended that the United Nations development system assist in designing and monitoring such initiatives.

91. The report also indicates that support for TCDC by developed countries, intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations system has been forthcoming through what can broadly be termed triangular cooperation. Developed countries and the United Nations system have, inter alia, tended to fund centres of excellence, knowledge networks, joint research, and information-gathering and dissemination at the regional and subregional levels to foster human resource development and institutional capacity-building in the South. It is therefore recommended that the developing countries include in their programmes activities that have proved to be viable for triangular cooperation.

92. The TCDC modality is being given preference in regional and interregional programmes although the administration of some programmes still rests with development partners rather than with the developing countries. However, TCDC by and large is not yet the modality of first choice in national technical cooperation programmes supported by development partners. Therefore, additional efforts need to be made to achieve the mainstreaming of TCDC in the operational activities of the United Nations development system. This issue has been considered in a separate report (TCDC/12/3), which also includes recommended actions to address this matter.

93. The report also suggests that many TCDC initiatives supported by development partners, especially the United Nations organizations, have aimed to narrow the digital divide and improve access to information in the South. It is therefore recommended that, as an immediate step, the United Nations organizations move quickly to link up their information systems, taking advantage of the Internet platform provided by WIDE.

94. Overall, there has been some positive movement towards articulating TCDC and ECDC policy by governments and towards strengthening national policy and institutional capacity for this purpose. The expansion of TCDC and ECDC at the national level and the crucial role of the TCDC pivotal countries in this effort are also worthy of note. There is also evidence of greater use of the technical resources (e.g., expertise and technology) of the South in technical cooperation programmes in general, and, in particular, under triangular cooperation. However, the ability to expand substantially exchanges of experiences, the pooling and sharing of technical resources in the South, joint research and policy formulation is significantly hindered by resource inadequacies. It is recommended that the developing countries that have well-established TCDC policy, institutional, financial and other capacities endeavour to make these capacities available to support developing countries, especially the least developed, landlocked and SIDS countries.

95 From this review, it is evident that TCDC remains an important form of international development cooperation. Although developing countries have the primary responsibility for expanding TCDC, development partners, especially the donor countries, also have a significant role to play in supporting it. It is therefore recommended that developing countries redouble their efforts to undertake cooperation programmes using the TCDC modality and that increased donor resources be provided to support TCDC.

Notes

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August - 12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum).

[2] General Assembly Official Records, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement no. 39 (A/45/39). Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Eleventh session (1-4 June 1999).

[3] Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, and Sao Tome and Principe.

[4] Comoros, Reunion, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles are members of IOC.

[5] Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand and Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States.

[6] Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam from Asia, and Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, South Africa and United Kingdom from other continents.

[7] Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[8] Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Egypt, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

[9] Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

[10] Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.

[11] Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam.

[12] Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

[13] The participating countries are China, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea.

[14] The countries are Cambodia, China (Yunan Province), Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

[15] The participants are Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand and Vanuatu.

[16] The participating countries are Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Annex

COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRES

A. Responses from developing countries, by region

Asia and Pacific	Africa	Latin America And Caribbean	Arab States	Central and East Europe
1. Bhutan	12. Burundi	21. Brazil p	28. Lebanon	30. Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. Cambodia	13. Cape Verde	22. Chile p	29. Tunisia p	31. Estonia
3. China p	14. Guinea	23. Costa Rica p		32. Latvia
4. India p	15. Lesotho	24. Honduras		33. Moldova
5. Indonesia p	16. Madagascar	25. Mexico p		34. Romania
6. Malaysia p	17. Seychelles	26. Peru p		35. Turkey p
7. Maldives	18. Sudan	27. Uruguay		36. Turkmenistan
8. Pakistan p	19. Togo			
9. Singapore p	20. Uganda			
10. Thailand p				
11. Viet Nam				

P indicates pivotal country (14)

B. Responses from resident representatives, by region

Asia and Pacific	Africa	Latin America and Caribbean	Arab States	Central and East Europe
1. Cambodia	7. Benin +	15. Barbados +		28. Albania +
2. Indonesia p	8. Congo +	16. Bolivia +		29. Bosnia and Herzogovina
3. Malaysia p	9. Guinea	17. Brazil p		30. Latvia
4. Pakistan p	10. Mauritius p +	18. Colombia p+		32. Moldova
5. Sri Lanka +	11. Nigeria p +	19. Cuba p +		33. Romania
6. Thailand p	12. Sao Tome and Principe+	20. El Salvador+		
	13. Seychelles	21. Guyana +		
	14. South Africa p +	22. Jamaica +		
		23. Nicaragua +		
		24. Panama +		
		25. Peru p		
		26. Uruguay		

P indicates pivotal country (11).
+ Indicates that while UNDP country offices replied, the country governments did not. (17)

C. Responses from donors, United Nations organizations, IGOs and NGOs

Donors	United Nations Organizations	IGOs & NGOs
1. Australia	1. ECE	1. AfDB
2. Canada	2. FAO	2. AOAD
3. Denmark (DANIDA)	3. ICJ	3. IRRI
4. Estonia	4. ITC	4. PAHO
5. Germany	5. UNAIDS	5. SELA
6. Japan	6. UNCTAD	6. SESRTCIC
7. Netherlands	7. UNDCP	7. South Centre
8. Norway	8. UNDP Liaison Office in Brussels	8. TWN
9. Sweden	9. UNDP RBAP	
10. Switzerland	10. UNESCAP	
	11. UNFPA	
	12. UNRWA	
	13. UNV	
	14. UPU	
	15. WHO	
	16. WIPO	